

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in Wisconsin. The CACFP helps provide funding for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults receiving day care. In addition to day care, the CACFP also provides funding for meals served to children and youths residing in homeless shelters, and for snacks provided to youths participating in eligible after school care programs.

A General Overview

CACFP is authorized in Section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766). Program regulations are issued by the USDA under 7 CFR part 226.

Program Administration

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through grants to States. The program is administered within most States by the State educational agency.

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with administering State agencies to assume administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations.

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive an administrative review by the DPI at least once every three years. An administrative review of a sponsoring organization by the DPI includes an onsite review of at least 10% of the sponsored facilities. If the sponsoring organization has more than 100 facilities they receive an administrative review by the DPI every two years. This administrative review includes an onsite review of at least 5% of the first 1000 facilities and 2.5% of the facilities in excess of 1,000. All DPI reviews of day care home facilities are conducted on an unannounced basis. Sponsoring organizations must complete and document three yearly onsite reviews of all the facilities under their sponsorship.

CACFP Facilities

Child Care Centers

Eligible public or private nonprofit child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, Head Start programs, and other institutions which are licensed or approved to provide day care services may participate in CACFP, independently or as sponsored centers. (Outside-school-hours care centers not required to be licensed must meet State or local health and safety standards.) For profit centers must receive Title XX funds for at least 25 percent of their participants (licensed capacity or enrollment, whichever is lower), or at least 25 percent of the children they serve must be eligible for free and reduced price meals. Meals served to children are reimbursed at rates based upon a child's eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid meals.

Day Care Homes

A family day care home provider must sign an agreement with a sponsoring organization to participate in CACFP. Day care homes must be licensed or approved to provide day care services. Reimbursement for meals served in day care homes is based upon eligibility for tier I rates (which targets higher levels of reimbursement to low-income areas, providers, or children) or lower tier II rates.

"At-Risk" After School Care Programs

Community-based programs that offer enrichment activities for at-risk children and teenagers, after the regular school day ends, can provide free snacks through CACFP.

Homeless Shelters

Since July 1, 1999, public or private nonprofit emergency shelters which provide residential and food services to homeless families may participate in CACFP. Eligible shelters may receive reimbursement for serving up to

three meals each day to homeless children and youth. Unlike most other CACFP facilities, a shelter does not have to be licensed to provide day care. However, it must meet State or local health and safety standards.

Adult Day Care Centers

Public or private nonprofit adult day care facilities which provide structured, comprehensive services to nonresidential adults who are functionally impaired, or aged 60 and older, may participate in CACFP as independent or sponsored centers. For profit centers may be eligible for CACFP if at least 25 percent of their participants receive benefits under Title XIX or Title XX. Meals served to adults receiving care are reimbursed at rates based upon a participant's eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid meals.

Meal Reimbursement

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive cash reimbursement for serving meals to enrolled children and adults that meet Federal nutritional guidelines. The CACFP meal pattern varies according to age and types of meal served.

Centers and day care homes may be approved to claim up to two reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch or supper) and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, to each eligible participant, each day. Emergency shelters may claim each child and youth for three reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch and supper), each day. After school care programs may claim reimbursement for serving each youth one snack, each day.

Reimbursement for centers is computed by blended per meal rates. The administering State agency assigns a method of reimbursement for centers, based on meals times rates, or the lesser of meals time's rates versus actual documented costs.

Program payments for day care homes are based on the number of meals served to enrolled children, multiplied by the appropriate reimbursement rate for each breakfast, lunch, supper, or supplement they are approved to serve. Sponsoring organizations also receive administrative funds related to the documented costs they incur in planning, organizing, and managing CACFP.

Commodities or Cash-in-lieu of Commodities

In addition to cash reimbursement, USDA makes donated agricultural commodities or cash-in-lieu of commodities available to institutions participating in CACFP. In Wisconsin all institutions receive cash-in-lieu of commodities.

Eligible Participants

- Children age 12 and under,
- Migrant children age 15 and under,
- Homeless children and youths age 18 and under (Emergency Shelters only),
- Functionally impaired, non-institutionalized adults and adults 60 years and older (Adult Day Care Centers only), and
- Youths age 18 and under ("At-Risk" After School Care Programs only)

Additional Information

For additional information call (608) 267-9129 or write to:

Child and Adult Care Food Program, Community Nutrition Programs, Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI. 53707

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